**Community Police Commission (CPC)**

**March 15th, 2023, 9:00am Via Zoom Conference Call**

1. **Welcome & Land Acknowledgement**
2. **Attendance**

**CPC Attendees**: Rev. Patricia Hunter, Rev. Harriett Walden, Joel Merkel, Mark Mullens, Suzette Dickerson, Tascha Johnson, Erica Newman, Le’Jayah Washington, Jeremy Wood, Mary Ruffin, Joseph Seia

**CPC Absences:** Asha Mohamed, Alina Santillan (excused)

**CPC Staff**: Cali Ellis, Felicia Cross, Megan Clark, Mina Barahimi Martin, Jo-Nathan Thomas, Logan Rysemus

1. **Review Agenda & Minutes**

**Action**: Motion to approve the 3/15/23 meeting agenda

**Moved**: Suzette Dickerson

**Seconded:** Joseph Seia

**Approved by voice vote.**

**Opposed**: 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**Action:** Commissioner Washington indicated the minutes were missing the discussion on implicit bias training and other police trainings, and the need for amended minutes. --- Motion to approve the amended minutes from 3/01/23.

**Moved:** Joel Merkel

**Seconded:** Suzette Dickerson

**Approved by voice vote.**

**Opposed:** 0

**Abstentions**: 0

* + **Action items Review**
1. **Community Police Commission Updates**
	* Co-Chair Updates: Rev. Hunter provided an update on co-chair intentions to seek changes to the CPC bylaws.
	* Executive Director updates: the CPC is focusing on reconnecting with requirements under the governing ordinance. The CPC is almost fully staffed as well. New staff introduced themselves:
		+ Jessica Phares, Legislative Aide.
	* Workgroup Updates / Staff Department Updates
		+ Police Practices: Commissioner Washington provided updates that the police practices workgroup has begun meeting, setting cadence of meetings, and overall intentions.
		+ Behavioral Health: NA
		+ Complainant Appeals: Commissioner Ruffin provided an update that workgroup has met with new Senior Policy Advisor, Mina Barahimi Martin, and is devising work plan, meeting schedule, and measurable outcomes. Next steps are setting up meetings with OIG and OPA with assistance from Mina.
		+ Community Engagement (CE): Community Engagement Director, Felicia Cross, gave an update on CE work group. Commissioner Santillan and Mullens are two primary members. Overall, community engagement meetings are on pause until more commissioners are onboard and the meetings are restructured. Director Cross asked all commissioners to submit meetings and events in their community that they want CPC to have a presence at.
		+ Staff Updates:
		+ Senior Policy Advisor, Mina Barahimi Martin, PhD., updated the commission on the restarting of workgroups. Mina and workgroups will be using prior workgroup records to review and determine what was accomplished in the past. CPC Co-Chairs have interviewed individuals who applied to be commissioners. CPC is moving forward with three nominations: position 3 for public defense, position 6 for civil rights, and position 18 for SPMA (Seattle Police Management Association).
		+ Legislative update from Interim Executive Director, Cali Ellis, PhD.:
			- WA Leg session has reached house of origin cutoff, meaning many bills the CPC voted to support will not be moving forward in the legislature due to not making it through the cutoff.
			- HB 1025: Bill on qualified immunity made it to the House floor but was not voted on before cutoff, meaning the bill is most likely dead for this session.
			- HB 1513: Rep. Street’s bill on traffic safety never left the House rules committee, effectively killing the bill for this session.
			- HB 1579: bill on independent prosecutor for police use of deadly force, housed in the Attorney General’s office, passed out of the House of Reps and moves on in the legislative session.
			- SB 5352: was pulled out of committee without ever being heard in policy committee. This is a police pursuit reform bill that rolls back some of the 2021 reforms.
				* Commissioner Wood inquired about SB 5352 and if the CPC has voted on its stance. Dr. Ellis responded that the CPC has never taken a vote to indicate position on SB 5352.
			- Five bills related to police recruitment and retention have left house of origins, three from the House and two from the Senate.
			- Two bills on missing and murdered indigenous peoples made it through cutoffs and are moving forward in the legislative session.
	* New Business: Rev. Hunter asked Commissioner Dickerson for an update on contract negotiations between the City and SPOG (Seattle Police Officers Guild).
		+ Commissioner Dickerson shared that she met with the City team regarding contract negotiations, and they have tried to ensure all accountability pieces are included within the negotiations.
2. **Monitor Report and Discussion**
	* Federal Monitor, Dr. Antonio Oftelie, presented to the CPC regarding the SPD’s status on fulfilling the consent decree.
	* Presentation content: (1) Overview of Monitoring Activities; (2) Seattle Accountability System Sustainability Assessment; (3) Next Phase of Consent Decree (4); Discussion and Questions.
	* General Overview of Monitoring Activities and Deliverables: Three overarching work streams:
		+ (1) General Monitoring: core areas of consent decree are use of force (including crowd management), crisis intervention, stops and detentions, supervision.
			- SPD has maintained general compliance with the four major categories. However, within each category there remain areas of concern that will continue to be a focus, ex. The disparity of policing on Black and Brown communities.
		+ (2) Accountability: Seattle Accountability System Sustainability Assessment.
			- Focus on ensuring the Seattle Accountability System is robust enough to prevent progress from receding when the federal consent decree ends.
			- led by Dr. Oftelie, Vanessa Wheeler, Associate Monitor, and Dr. Richard Rosenthal, Police Accountability Consultant, hired to address Seattle Accountability Triad (OPA, CPC, & OIG).
			- Assessment report to the courts, city, and community will be published around mid/end of July.
			- Recommendations from oversight triad are not technically under purview of the federal court. But the judge may require some recommendations to be implemented before the consent decree is lifted.
		+ (3) Strategic planning and technical assistance: development of “final phase” of consent decree and transitioning oversight to community.
			- Determining what areas of the Consent Decree have “sustained compliance” and what work remains.
			- Dr. Oftelie commented on the immense reforms SPD has implemented and the transformational difference between prior SPD and current SPD.
			- Oftelie also commented on how the consent decree has always been the foundation for constitutional policing, but everything to make Seattle policing even better has to be driven by the community.
			- Forming a consensus and agreement across the City of Seattle, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Court on compliance and resolution:
				* City and/or DOJ files a motion with the court.
				* Potential court hearing or “status conference”.
				* Court issues an “order of resolution” which stipulates remaining activities under federal oversight and activates monitoring plan.
		+ Key Questions for Transferring Oversight to Community:
			- How should the transition be paced?
			- What new capabilities, if any, should accountability organizations such as OPA, OIG, and CPC have in place?
			- What initiatives should CPC start planning now that can overlap with and/or commence upon transfer of oversight? (*Ex: work on disparities, alternative and multi-disciplinary response, modified sentinel event reviews, etc.)*
	* (4) Questions and Discussions with Commissioners:
		+ Rev. Walden commented on how the City tried to end the consent decree in early 2020. She also commented on how the city never answered the federal judge’s letter from 2020.
		+ Rev. Walden commented on how the city should have been out of compliance with the consent decree because the use of force during the 2020 civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd was over the top. Additionally, the crowd management policy that the CPC recommended for SPD in 2015/2016 was not used to train officers. If the CPC makes and recommends policy to SPD, but they do not train on the policy, then there are still problems with the system. If the recommendations would have been implemented, the crowd management during 2020 would have been significantly better.
		+ Rev. Walden highlighted concerns surrounding contract negotiations and historic undermining of police reforms through this process.
		+ Rev. Walden also commented on the need for diligence as police alternatives are developed. Police have access to a lot of information and data that alternative responses might not have access to. Examples were given surrounding the move of park enforcement out of SPD and the ensuing complexities that were experienced as a result.
		+ Dr. Oftelie responded with information regarding processes the city will take in the future on ending the consent decree, but these processes will be informed by events in 2020 and following. The city must have a court approved crowd management plan; this policy is in development. SPD must also show that they have trained officers on the crowd management plan before the judge will approve ending the consent decree. Any gaps on data/findings that the CPC wants to highlight should be resurfaced to ensure the court addresses these issues. Oftelie commented on the concerns Rev. Walden highlighted surrounding alternative development and echoed the need for critical care to be given to these developments and implementation. Development/implementation of alternatives is critical and so is the focus on data sharing and cooperation with police departments.
		+ SPD COO, Brian Maxey, spoke regarding accountability and the primary case that resulted in SPD being found out of compliance with the consent decree in the past. Maxey stated that we are in a far improved position regarding accountability because many new systems have come online to aide in oversight.
		+ Commissioner Merkel asked how Dr. Oftelie envisions the monitoring duties will be transitioned to the accountability triad.
		+ Dr. Oftelie said most of the monitoring duties will be absorbed by the OIG. Need to develop line items to ensure all monitoring aspects are accounted for in the transition.
		+ Rev. Hunter asked if some areas of the consent decree will be completed and removed, while other areas of concerns, such as disparities, are carved out and left in the consent decree. She also asked about the assessment report that will be published, potentially, in July 2023. Additionally, Rev. Hunter asked if the monitor can flag to the federal court concerns around collective bargaining.
		+ Dr. Oftelie responded that the accountability assessment report will essentially be a set of recommendations for the city to improve oversight after the consent decree. Regarding disparities, Oftelie said the city and community will be better equipped to address this than the federal court as this area was not an original aspect of the consent decree. On collective bargaining, Oftelie said the judge is already looking at this concern and how best to address moving forward. He suggested that the CPC continues to weigh in on collective bargaining through amicus briefing.
		+ Commissioner/Officer Mark Mullens asked why the entire consent decree is being reworked again, and if Dr. Oftelie has spoken with SPD officers.
		+ Dr. Oftelie said that the consent decree is not being reworked, but instead reviewed to assess which areas of have been completed and which areas still need work. Oftelie also responded that he has spoken with many SPD officers and continues to be in contact with them.
3. **Adjourn**